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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/635,249	08/06/2003	Donald C. Roc	8556C	9458
27752	7590	09/07/2007	EXAMINER	
THE PROCTER & GAMBLE COMPANY			BOGART, MICHAEL G	
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DIVISION - WEST BLDG.			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
WINTON HILL BUSINESS CENTER - BOX 412			3761	
6250 CENTER HILL AVENUE				
CINCINNATI, OH 45224				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
09/07/2007		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/635,249	ROE ET AL.
	Examiner Michael G. Bogart	Art Unit 3761

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 June 2007.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 12-14 and 16-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) 12-14 and 16 is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 17-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 06 August 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

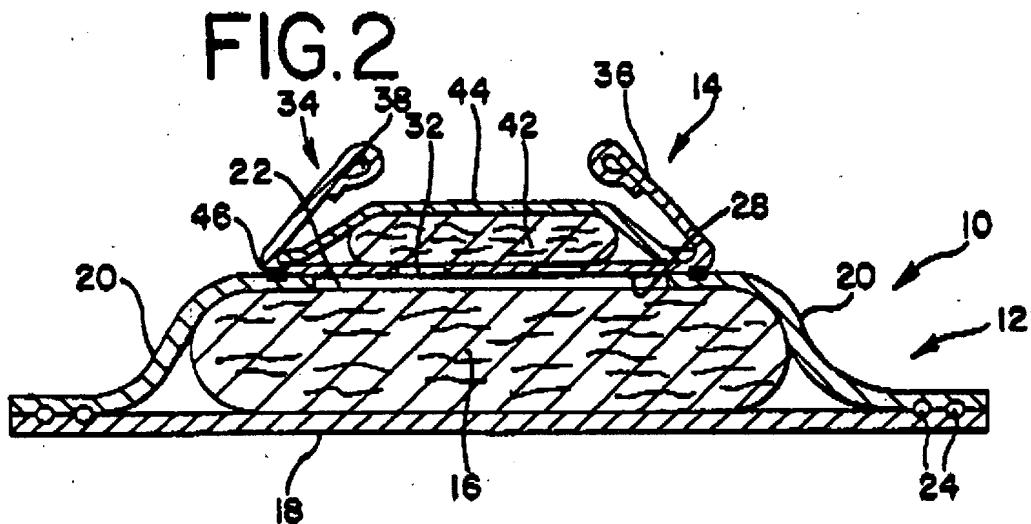
This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. § 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Claims 17-20 rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zajaczkowski (US 5,236,428 A) in view of Angelillo *et al.* (US 5,277,180 A; hereinafter “Angelillo”) and McCoy (US 5,167,655 A).

Claims 17-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Zajaczkowski.

Regarding claim 17, Zajaczkowski teaches a disposable diaper (10) having a longitudinal axis, a first waist region, a second waist region, and a crotch region interposed therebetween, the disposable diaper (10) comprising:

a backsheet (18); a topsheet (20) joined to the backsheet (18); an absorbent core (16) disposed intermediate the backsheet (18) and the topsheet (20); and a temperature change element (42, 44) disposed on the topsheet (20) along the longitudinal axis, the temperature change element (42, 44) includes a permeable layer (44) having a body facing surface, a temperature change substance (42) disposed on the permeable layer (44), and an impermeable layer (28) partially wrapped around the permeable layer (44) such that longitudinal edges (36) of the impermeable layer (28) stop short of meeting, leaving a center portion of the body facing surface of the permeable layer (44) exposed (see figure 2, infra).



Regarding the interpretation of "temperature change element", this limitation is functional. Apparatus claims must be structurally distinguishable over the prior art. MPEP § 2114. Zajaczkowski teaches an absorbent material (42) that is capable of changing temperature when fluids (e.g., urine) having a different temperature than the material are applied to that material. This change in temperature can be conveyed to a wearer of the article.

Zajaczkowski does not disclose that the temperature change substance has a negative heat of solution (endothermic).

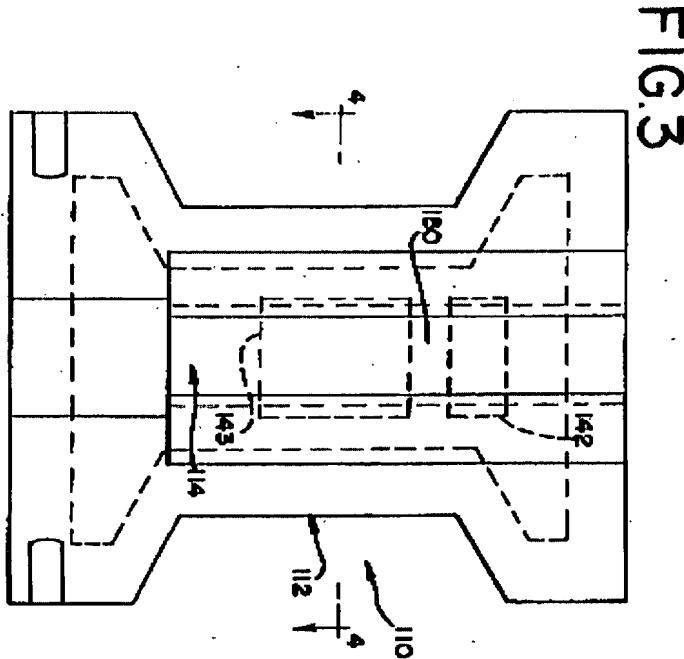
Angelillo teaches an absorbent pad with an endothermic thermal pack (314)(col. 1, lines 38-58).

McCoy teaches a wearable undergarment (2) comprising a cold therapy pack.

All the claimed elements were known in the prior art and one skilled in the art could have combined the elements as claimed by known methods with no change in their respective functions, and the combination would have yielded predictable results to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention. *KSR International Co. v. Teleflex Inc.*, 550 U.S. __, 82 USPQ2d 1385, 1396 (2007).

Regarding claim 18, Zajaczkowski teaches a temperature change substance (42) on a body-faceable surface of the permeable layer (44) in parallel regions (142, 143) covered by the longitudinal edges (36) of the impermeable layer (28)(see figure 3, infra).

Regarding the “body facing surface of the permeable layer,” this layer is capable of being positioned such that either flat surface can face a human body.



Regarding claim 19, Zajaczkowski teaches a disposable diaper (10) having a longitudinal axis, a first waist region, a second waist region, and a crotch region interposed therebetween, the disposable diaper (10) comprising:

a backsheet (18) ; a topsheet (20) joined to the backsheet (18);
an absorbent core (16) disposed intermediate the backsheet (18) and the topsheet (20) and impermeable barrier leg cuffs (28, 36) disposed on the topsheet (20) parallel to the longitudinal axis and temperature change elements (44, 142, 143) disposed on the barrier leg cuffs (28, 36), each of the temperature change elements (44, 142, 143) includes a permeable layer (44) having a body-faceable surface, an impermeable layer (28) formed by the barrier leg cuff (28, 36), and a temperature change substance (142, 143) disposed on the permeable layer.

Regarding claim 20, Zajaczkowski teaches a temperature change substance (42) disposed between the permeable layer (44) and the leg barrier cuff (28, 36)(see figure 2, supra).

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 12-14 and 16 are allowed.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 17-20 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael Bogart whose telephone number is (571) 272-4933.

In the event the examiner is not available, the Examiner's supervisor, Tatyana Zalukaeva may be reached at phone number (571) 272-1115. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300 for formal communications. For informal communications, the direct fax to the Examiner is (571) 273-4933.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-3700.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Michael Bogart
4 September 2007

TATYANA ZALUKAEVA
SUPERVISORY PRIMARY EXAMINER

